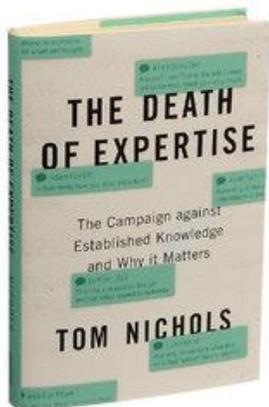


# AJASN Newsletter

## August 2017

### Inside

- 1 Public service
- 2 Changing workplace
- 2 Health
- 2 Urban & Built
- 3 Science & technology
- 4 Frames
- 4 Forward Looks
- 5 Megatrends
- 5 News
- 5 Websites
- 5 Events



A book [review](#) is here.

Feedback to Kate Delaney  
[kate.delaney@jrca.net.au](mailto:kate.delaney@jrca.net.au)

Thanks to Dr Rhyll Vallis, Dr Stuart Pearson, & Dr Louise Osborne

## Public service (& related)

Former Defence secretary Dennis Richardson suggested it is time for another Coombs-style [royal commission](#) into the APS. Here is a book of [twelve speeches](#) about the public service in Australia, given in 2016.

The subscription model of academic publishing is doomed according to this [study](#) of Sci-Hub (the pirate [site](#).)

A Productivity Commission [report](#) notes that the Australian government is still protecting industries that employ a small number of people.

French President Emmanuel Macron has passed one of his first major pieces of legislation: [a law banning politicians](#) from hiring family members. Overall the public sector received a 43% positive rating on the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this [Ethics Index](#) — behind education sector (80%), health (69%) and charities and NFP (60%) but in front of media (1%), corporate sector (-3%) and banking sector (-5%).

A Treasury taskforce is developing a whole-of-Government approach to defeating the 'black economy.' It has issued a [consultation](#) paper for public comment. Industries with specific problems included tobacco and horticulture as well as certain segments of the labour hire and security industries.

Should Governments Invest More in Nudging? A [paper](#) by Benartzi et al answers 'yes.' An interesting [article](#) on design thinking and disruptive transformation in the RAAF.

An entire transcript of the conversation between two world leaders has never gotten out before, and the [implications](#) for national security are grave.

Ever wonder how to read a Regulatory Impact Analysis? Here is an answer: Dudley, S., et al. (2017). Consumer's [Guide to Regulatory Impact](#) Analysis: Ten Tips for Being an Informed Policymaker.

This post says: 'The idea that government [economic policy](#) should only be about making capitalist enterprise easier is just plain wrong.'

The Grants in Australia 2017 research [study](#) says effort is being wasted on abandoned applications, large organisations are increasingly scooping up small grants, and pressure is building on local government to fund more.

Based on a survey of over 2,000 Australian public servants, this [paper](#) says that individual and organisational deficits can leave the public service unprepared to engage with diverse forms of evidence, including academic research in particular. From the U.K. NAO [blog](#): How can public sector organisations get or develop the people and skills they need? The first thing is: prioritise; it simply must do less.

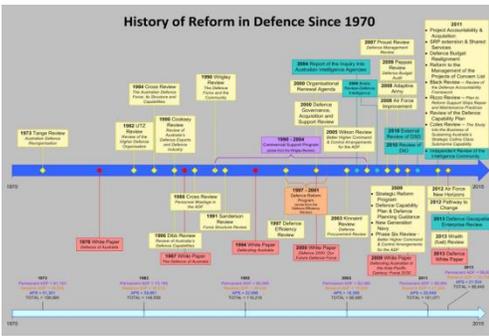
Here is a guide on the new [Home Affairs](#) portfolio done by the Parliamentary Library (i.e. machinery of government changes.)

This 2016 article synthesizes the cross-disciplinary literature on [government](#) transparency.

This analysis of many public college (*provider*) contracts with for-profit companies (to create and manage their [online classes](#)) argues the increasingly blurred line between public and for-profit schools puts students and taxpayers at risk.

Modelling [algae behaviour](#) may give researchers a better handle on how political movements survive and spread.

## Changing workplace



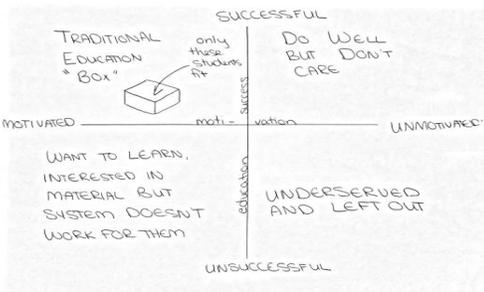
The original image and an article are [here](#).

This article talks about how the workforce is now composed of [quitters](#) – i.e. quitting work is now central to what it means to have a job in the first place. This changes workplace relationships. This [article](#) discusses how to use pride building / builders as a cultural change intervention. This is a U.S. [toolkit](#) for enhancing employment relevance of community colleges education.

This PWC 'Workforce of the future' [study](#) looks at four possible Worlds of Work for 2030 and the views of 10,000 people. An [article](#) on the future of work (European view) focuses on the bloom rather than the gloom that awaits modern and future society in terms of work and of life. Almost half of all Scottish jobs are under risk from automation, according to a new IPPR Scotland [report](#). But mid-career skills training can help equip people for the new economy.

On contingent workers, the (U.S.) 2017 [Moynihan Lecture](#): The Impact of Non-Traditional Jobs and the Role for Public Policy is of interest.

## Health



Here is a matrix explaining today's education system is designed for students that are successful at following lesson plans and motivated by those lessons, but does not account for the other three possibilities from an [article](#) describing the [Blue Sky School: Experimental Prototype School of Tomorrow](#) in Ontario, Canada.

Scientists in the UK claim [analysing data](#) from Google Trends on questions about health symptoms might help them spot the emergence of Type 2 diabetes. A [study by Stanford University](#) that collected smartphone data from 700,000 people around the globe to analyse how many steps they take per day has created an International Laziness Ranking, ranked Australia as the 19th laziest country in the world, with our slothful citizens averaging just 4941 steps a day. This [article](#) explores the question: Are we creating health management systems that are responsive to differences, or ones that spit back content riddled with historical bias and discrimination? (e.g. affecting your health insurance)

A new [study](#) shows that men's reproductive health (sperm counts) may have declined, particularly in Western countries, by as much as 50 percent over 40 years –researchers aren't really sure why.

Scientists were able to use a gene-editing tool called [CRISPR](#) to correct a gene mutation in human embryos. (Watch: A 2 minute [guide](#) to CRISPR from MIT.) And, here is an explanatory 2016 TED [video](#).

Loneliness and social isolation may represent a greater [public health](#) hazard than obesity. The number of drug [resistant](#) TB cases continues to rise.

## Urban, & built environment

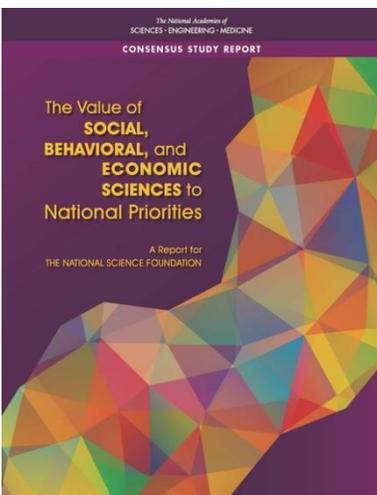
Here is a column on [winner-take-all urbanism](#) by Richard Florida.

More and more governments are proposing a ban on the sale of gasoline and diesel cars by a deadline – 2040, 2030, even 2025. A [post](#) discusses how realistic this is. Holland's Studio Roosegaarde has developed [anti-smog bicycles](#) and the first prototype is expected to hit the Beijing streets as soon as the end of this year (i.e. mobile air filters.) Dutch students have grown a [biodegradable car](#).

Solar has become the world's favourite new type of electricity generation, according to global data showing that [more solar](#) is being installed than any other generation technology.

A civil engineer has designed an [acoustic approach](#) to detecting defects in concrete bridge decks.

Widespread adoption of '[cool roofs](#)' (e.g. light-colored materials that reflect a large fraction of the sun's rays) has the potential to increase certain types of air pollution.



You can download this [report](#).

## Science & technology

A February [2017 study](#) by the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, considers why the tone of reporting of technology in the US media has become more sombre – 'Why So Sad? A Look at the Change in Tone of Technology Reporting 1986 to 2013.'

Europe's General Data Protection Regulation ([GDPR](#)) takes effect on May 25, 2018. The GDPR will expand the reach of EU data-protection regulation. Its aim is protect personal data against misuse and theft and to give European Union residents control over how data relating to them are being used.

Two Data61 [reports](#) are now available: (1) Risks and Opportunities for Systems using Blockchain and Smart Contract and (2) Distributed Ledgers: Scenarios for the Australian economy over the coming decades.

A new report by Harvard's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs says that AI could [transform national security](#) like nukes and aircraft did. RAND conducted a cybersecurity exercise in Australia – here is a [report](#). A [Global Commission for Stability in Cyberspace](#) was set up.

This article discusses the possibility of the [bio-citizen](#) (where everyone is able to sequence genomes to monitor health and eco-systems.)

The [future](#) of search engines: Researchers combine artificial intelligence, crowdsourcing and supercomputers. Online personalisation algorithms are leading many content viewers to narrower [choices](#). This [post](#) claims that Google's new algorithms affect the number of visitors to websites of the 'left.'

This [study](#) suggests that when exposed to encouraging news coverage people may have more faith in science (e.g. Zika vaccine.) But, the uptick in trust was short-term.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine has published an [e-book](#) Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda.

Cognitive capacity and overall brain power are significantly reduced when your smartphone is within glancing distance (even if it's turned off and face down) according to a recent [study](#). This [article](#) asks 'Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?' (The answer is yes.)

This [post](#) says in Australia the community tends to divide into three groups as concerns technological change: the Never Betters (the optimists), the Better-Nevers (the pessimists) and the Ever-Wasers (the realists who embrace every change, while complaining about them at least initially).

A [new study](#) connects the dots between published science and patented innovations, mapping how society benefits from basic scientific research.

A new study that found interest in [STEM subjects](#) could be contagious amongst students in the classroom.

School-based mental health programs can reach large numbers of children, with increasing evidence of effectiveness in improving mental health and related outcomes, according to a [research review](#).

Researchers have devised a method enabling computers to mine databases of patents, inventions and research papers, identifying [ideas that can be repurposed](#) to solve new problems or create new products.

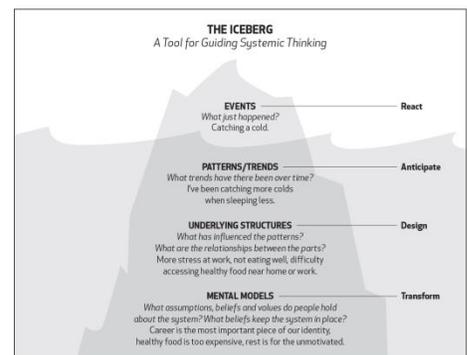
This [report](#) examines the question of using drones to deliver packages and attempts to identify societal impacts.



A [TED Talk](#) by Tricia Wang ... identifies pitfalls of big data suggesting that we focus instead on *thick data* – precious, unquantifiable insights from actual people (to make the right business decisions.)



An infographic from a [report](#) by the Foundation for Young Australians shows the most important skills young Australians will need to be work smart in the future.



Here is an example of the iceberg from the Northwest Earth Institute <https://www.nwei.org/iceberg/>

## Frames / framing

People are irrationally motivated to complete arbitrary sets of tasks, donations, or purchases according to new [research](#). (Can you use this to design policy?)

This [research](#) says higher critical reasoning skills were associated with lower levels of dogmatism. But moral concern influences dogmatic thinking. In religious people it makes them more certain, in non-religious more uncertain. Here is a [post](#) (with studies) that says people might 'falsely moderate' the certainty of their opponents, expecting their opponents to harbor doubts. So what? Changing perceptions of others' certainty or reducing one's own certainty might reduce political conflict.

On *design thinking* - [John Maeda](#) (a design guru) on what he terms the three kinds of design.

[New research](#) points out the way we make sense of the world underpins our political orientation i.e. how we answer this question: When you are asked to judge a situation, do you instinctively reach for an intrinsic explanation, or an extrinsic one? A [paper](#) says most of us have an instinctual anti-profit bias and this leads many voters and politicians to endorse anti-profit policies with systematically worse economic policy outcomes for society.

## Forward looking

A [new paper](#) *Futures 2.0: Rethinking the discipline* says that 'futurists could develop social software tools, prediction markets, and other technologies to improve the individual and collective accuracy and impact of work. Choice architectures and nudges to lengthen the shadow of the future of everyday choices made by ordinary people could also be used.' Here is a [paper](#) on 'Evaluating foresight in transnational research programming.' Another foresight [paper](#) is on European sectoral innovation foresight: Identifying emerging cross-sectoral patterns and policy issues. Another [paper](#) on scenarios from *Climate Risk Management journal*: Multiple methods for multiple futures: Integrating qualitative scenario planning and quantitative simulation modeling for natural resource decision making.

The Inter-American Development Bank has created an online database, the Global Trends and Future Scenarios Database of Reports, found at <http://globaltrends.thedialogue.org/>. This includes more than 800 foresight publications and reports from around the world, including reports in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and other languages.

Here is a [video](#) on *Mapping the Future* with futurist Richard Watson - it explores "that" technology and megatrends [map](#) (2017 - 2050.) This is a [report](#) on the factory of the future (based on a number of megatrends.) The [Future of Rail 2050](#) is a thought piece created by Arup Rail with input from contributors from across the world. A Future of Transport [report](#) investigates the disconnect between where consumers are heading and what automotive companies are investing in, as well as how data-sharing could advance transport. The UK's National Grid energy scenarios are [here](#). Here is an [interview](#) with Ged Davis a long-term energy futurist.

Here is the [first post](#) in a series of five about the Future of Education. Here is a description of the [Blue Sky School: Experimental Prototype School of Tomorrow](#) in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

This report sets out PWC's latest long-term [global growth projections](#) to 2050 for 32 of the largest economies in the world, accounting for around 85% of world GDP.

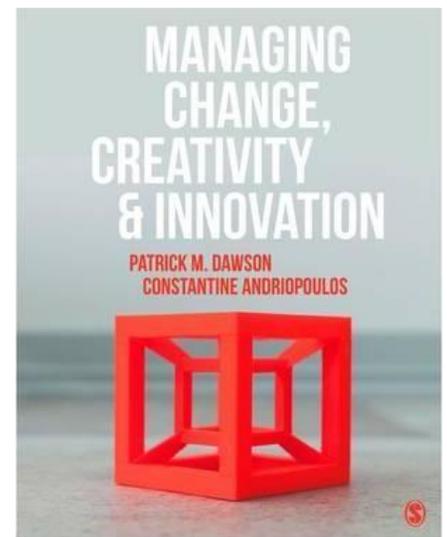
**strategy+business**  
**Find Your Thinking Sweet Spot — and Gaps**  
 You need to be aware of your leadership strengths, as well as weaknesses, if you hope to be an effective manager and problem solver.

If you are...	Your thinking sweet spot is...	And you can stretch your thinking by...
Logical, realistic, numbers-driven	Analytical	Considering points of view that may seem novel or too different from your usual approach.
Organized, task-driven, operations focused	Practical	Taking a step back and giving yourself time to discover new and creative solutions.
Expressive, engaging, sensitive to others	Relational	Deciding on and communicating firm deadlines, rules, and boundaries for projects and meetings.
Imaginative, curious, likely to challenge the status quo	Experimental	Being mindful about not reinventing the wheel and not wasting your or your team's time on fruitless activities.

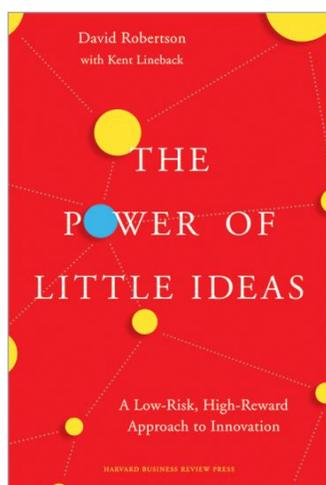
Source: Herrmann International, PwC research  
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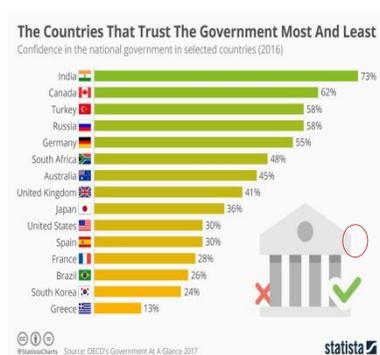
This infographic [source](#) is here.



A [newer book](#) is based on the premise that change, creativity and innovation all overlap and interconnect rather than being three separate areas of study and that managing the three together is central.



A new book, reviewed [here](#).



Source: Statista

## Upcoming meetings

**Next meeting:** 6 December 2017

## Mega-trends

RAND researchers are envisioning the [world in 2040](#), and the security challenges that will shape it. T

The 2017 [Independent Intelligence Review](#) makes recommendations in four priority areas: the coordinating structures of the intelligence community, new funding mechanisms to address capability issues, the streamlining of legislative arrangements, and measures to further strengthen the state of trust between the intelligence agencies and the Australian community.

## News

A research and development conglomerate backed by eminent international scientific names will compete with the CSIRO (<https://twitter.com/Element8Group>).

Here's a new [Knowledge City Index](#) about 25 Australian cities.

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIPB) is introducing an [automated customs system](#) that relies on facial recognition instead of passports to clear people arriving in Australia by air.

This is a first of its kind Australian [conviction](#) of a Japanese company for cartel conduct. The company pleaded guilty and was fined \$25 million by the Federal Court. (There are lawsuits about a potato cartel in the United States.)

The [Bank for International Settlements](#) (BIS) has identified Canada, China, some Nordic nations and Australia as having worryingly high levels of household debt.

This article has [eight charts](#) that illustrate how the global economy has fared in the 10 years since the GFC.

A review of Victoria's privatised [energy market](#) has called for the reintroduction of price regulation (after de-regulation eight years ago.)

## Web sites

This is the first blog in a [series](#) exploring the implications of different policies on the development and deployment of artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cognitive systems.

SSRN announced creation of a Chemistry Research Network [ChemRN](#)

The Dialogue and the Inter-American Development Bank launched the Global Trends & Future Scenarios [Database of Reports](#).

The Pew Charitable Trusts rolled out a new [digital platform](#) for scientists working to create new antibiotics to share their data, ideas, and discoveries with each other.

## Events

The (US GAO co-sponsored) Public Sector Foresight Network (PSFN) meeting with the Federal Foresight Community of Interest (FFCOI) will be held October 20 (virtual attendance is possible.) Contact: [cbezold@alfutures.org](mailto:cbezold@alfutures.org) (Kate has advised Clem that people might directly contact him.)

The [Block to the Future](#) event is on 27 and 28 October, the first Association of Professional Futurists event in Australia. (Rob Hanson from Data61 spoke at our August meeting.)